



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for:
Resolution No. ____-2008
Adopting the Community Development Block Grant/HOME Investment Partnerships
Program FFY2008 Action Plan

To: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Stacy L. Spann
Director
Department of Housing and Community Development

Date: March 20, 2008

Resolution No. ____-2008 approves the the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Annual Action Plan for federal fiscal year 2008. The Action Plan serves as a planning document that is required annually as a precondition to receiving the County's annual entitlement of CDBG and HOME funds.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, Council Resolution 43-2006 adopted Howard County's latest Consolidated Plan, a five-year strategic plan stipulating a course of action for the use of CDBG and HOME funds. An Annual Action Plan, the implementing document for the Consolidated Plan, is required to obtain the yearly entitlement of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Funds, including the American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) under HOME. These programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The primary objectives of the CDBG and HOME Programs are to develop viable communities by providing decent affordable housing, creating suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. The American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) program assists low-income persons and minorities in becoming first-time homeowners by providing downpayment and related closing cost assistance.

In order to receive the annual entitlement grants for FFY 2008, Howard County must adopt a new Annual Action Plan. The attached plan implements this year's efforts in Howard County. The Department of Housing and Community Development, in conjunction with the Department of

Citizens Services, the Housing and Community Development Board, and the Homeless Board, have developed this Annual Plan.

The attached schedule identifies the various milestones in the project application process. All projects must assist in the achievement of one or more of the goals of the five-year Consolidated Plan. The Housing and Community Development Board adopted selection criteria in 2000 and these criteria were provided to all interested parties as part of the application package.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has had discussions with various agencies, including those funded last year, and other interested agencies. These agencies included: the Department of Citizen Services, Howard Community College Educational Foundation, Inc., Congregations Concerned for the Homeless, Department of Recreation and Parks, FIRN, Inc., Office of Human Rights, Domestic Violence Center, and the Community Action Council.

The Action Plan will be disseminated and on display for public review in the Howard County Public Libraries, the lobby of the George Howard Building, and the Department of Housing and Community Development offices beginning on March 20, 2008. The Action Plan will also be available on the County's web page under the Department of Housing and Community Development link at www.howardcountymd.gov.

A summary of the projects proposed for funding is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This grant to Howard County will provide funding in the amount of \$1,652,966 (CDBG-\$1,158,318; HOME-\$490,092; and ADDI-\$4,556). The grant covers program and administrative costs. This grant is already incorporated into the Fiscal 2009 budget for the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The Administration recommends the approval of this Resolution.

cc: Ken Ulman, Howard County Executive (w/Action Plan)
Aaron Greenfield, Chief of Staff (w/Action Plan)
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator (w/Action Plan – 8 copies)
Ray Wacks, Budget Administrator
Housing and Community Development Board (w/Action Plan)
CDBG File
Chron File

Attachments:

Summary of Proposed FY 2009 Projects
Action Plan Schedule
Draft FFY 2008 Action Plan (8 copies)